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RICHARD STARKINGS
GARY RUSSELL
ADRIAN SALMON
KRIS CARTER



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DOCTOR • WHO™

COLD-BLOODED WAR!

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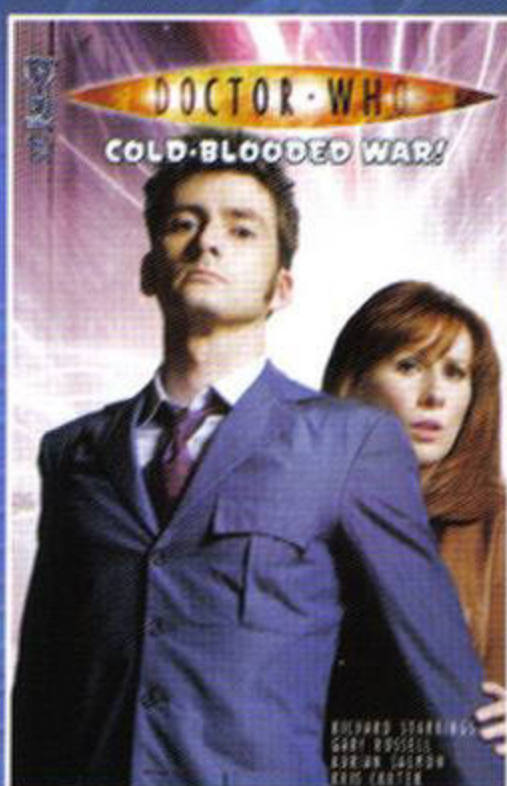
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THE HEADLINE NEWS: THE SITUATION ON DRACONIA HAS WORSENED IN RECENT WEEKS. THE ROYAL HOUSES ARE NOW EMBROILED IN A CIVIL WAR AFTER THREE CENTURIES OF GALACTIC HARMONY.



THE FEDERATION HAS REACHED OUT TO BOTH HOUSES BUT SO FAR ALL DIPLOMATIC ENTREATIES HAVE COME TO NOTHING. AND LOCAL AMBASSADORIAL EMBASSIES ARE OPERATING UNDER STRICT SUPERVISION.



FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVESSS HAVE DENIED THAT THEY HAVE REQUESTSSSED AID FROM THE SSSSHADOW PROCLAMATION, ALTHOUGH OBSSSERVERS HAVE SSSUGGESTED IT CANNOT BE LONG BEFORE JUDOON TROOPSSS ARE SSSSENT TO OCCUPY DRACONIA'SSS MAJOR CITIES.



THE PRESIDENT OF EARTH TODAY DESPATCHED TWO ADJUDICATORS TO BROKER PEACE BETWEEN THE ROYAL HOUSES, EVEN AS INSURGENTS CLAIM THAT THE CURRENT PROBLEMS ARE A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE DRACONIANS BECOMING PART OF THE FEDERATION IN THE FIRST PLACE.



BUT AT THE CENTER OF THE TROUBLES IS LADY ADJIT KWAN, WHOSE ASCENSION TO EMPRESS OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF ADJIT ASSAN SPARKED THE CIVIL UNREST. KWAN TODAY ADDRESSED THE PRESS FROM HER PALACE.



MY PEOPLE! I DEEPLY REGRET THE STRIFE THAT THREATENS OUR GREAT EMPIRE. HOWEVER, I CANNOT — AND WILL NOT ASSUME THE TRADITIONAL SUBSERVIENT ROLE EXPECTED OF DRACONIAN FEMALES. ALTHOUGH AN ACCIDENT OF BIRTH PLACED ME IN LINE FOR THE THRONE, I WILL NOT SHIRK MY RESPONSIBILITY. DRACONIA MUST MOVE FORWARD WITH THE TIMES...



"WELL ADJUDICATOR HALL, SHE'S NOT HELPING, IS SHE? I MEAN, SHE'S RIGHT, BUT DOES SHE REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE ENTIRE DRACONIAN MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE IS JUST GOING TO ROLL OVER ON ITS BACK AND LET HER TICKLE ITS TUMMY?! CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT WASN'T THE TERM DRACONIAN ONCE USED TO REFER TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE AND ANTIQUATED FORMS OF GOVERNMENT?"



"YES, WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE BELIEVES! KWAN'S POTENTIALLY A GREAT LEADER, BUT SHE'S A LOUSY DIPLOMAT! I'M JUST SURPRISED THERE HASN'T BEEN AN ATTEMPT ON HER LIFE ALREADY!"



NEVERTHELESS YOU AND ADJUDICATOR SPLANE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING THE WARRING HOUSES TO THE TABLE.

CONGRESSMAN, THESE KINDS OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEVER EASY WHEN CULTURAL CONVENTIONS ARE CHALLENGED.

EVEN SO, I BELIEVE THAT THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE DRACONIAN ARCHIVE I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION — DOCUMENTS GIVEN TO EARTH AT THE END OF THE FIRST GREAT SPACE WAR — WILL HELP.

YOU SEE, THEY ENTRUSTED US WITH A RECORD OF DRACONIA THAT STRETCHES FROM THE TRIBAL EPOCH THROUGH TO ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. I BELIEVE IT SHOWS THAT, HISTORICALLY, WOMEN HAD AS MUCH POWER AS MEN... IT IS ONLY SINCE THEIR INDUSTRIAL EPOCH THAT THE CHAUVINISTIC EMPERORS SILENCED THE WOMEN'S VOICES.



WELL, AT LEAST THEY NO LONGER CUT THEIR FEMALES' TONGUES OUT AT BIRTH, THAT'S PROGRESS!

YOU MAKE DRACONIANS SOUND LIKE PRIMITIVES. THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THEY EVER DID SUCH THINGS.

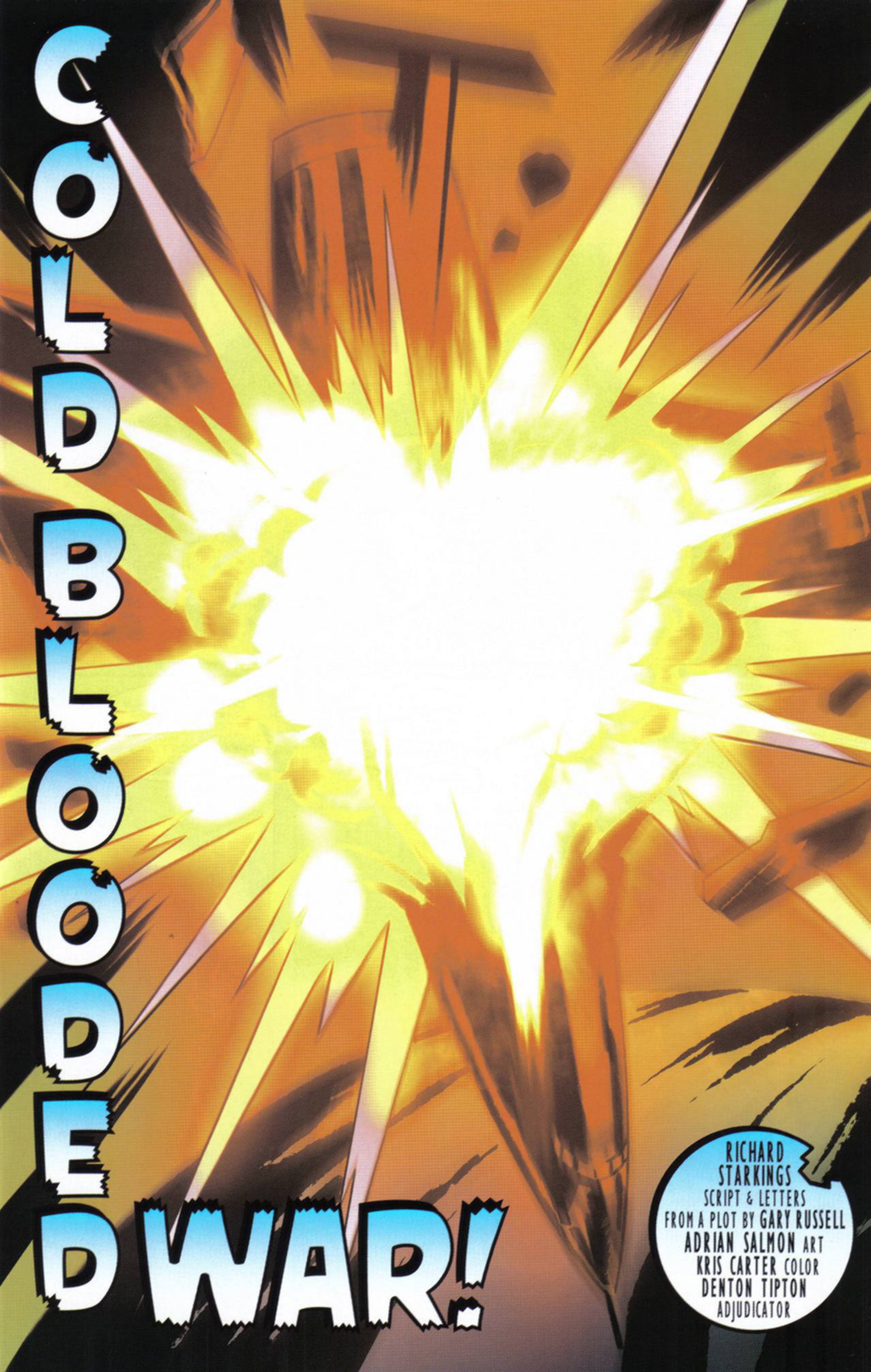


IF YOU STUDIED THEIR CULTURE, YOU'D SEE IT AS BRILLIANT AND PROGRESSIVE. BESIDES, LET'S NOT FORGET THAT FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, OUR ANCESTORS FELT A WOMEN'S BEST QUALIFICATION WAS HOW MANY WORDS SHE COULD TYPE IN A MINUTE!



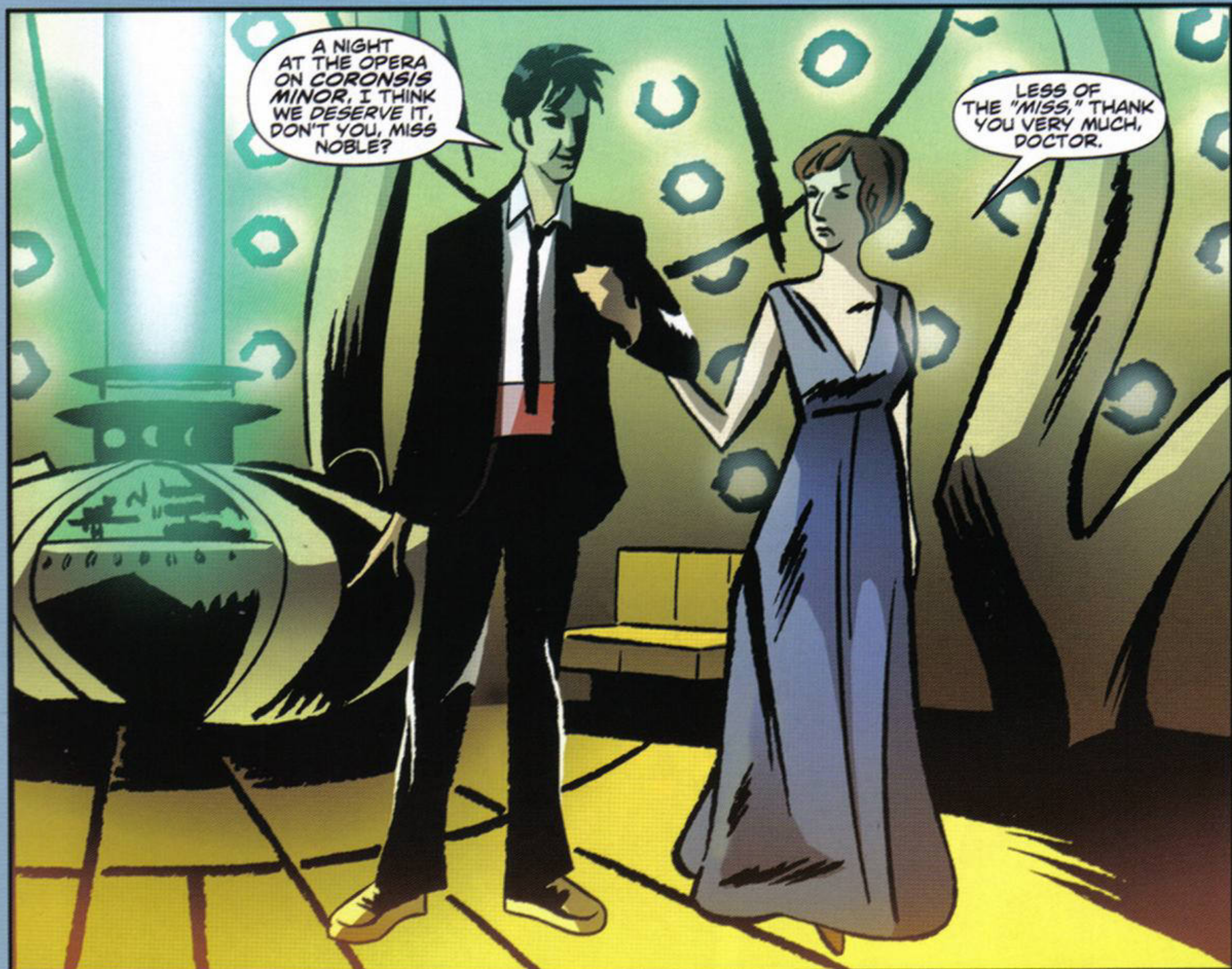
IT'S THE DRACONIAN INSURGENTS WHO ARE CAUSING THE UNREST... THEY'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO SABOTAGE... I SAY, WHAT'S THAT NOI—

CLICK TIKATIKATIKATIKATIKATIKA



COLD BLOOD DWAR!

RICHARD
STARKINGS
SCRIPT & LETTERS
FROM A PLOT BY GARY RUSSELL
ADRIAN SALMON ART
KRIS CARTER COLOR
DENTON TIPTON
ADJUDICATOR



A NIGHT AT THE OPERA ON CORONSIS MINOR, I THINK WE DESERVE IT, DON'T YOU, MISS NOBLE?

LESS OF THE "MISS," THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DOCTOR.

DON'T BE SO TOUCHY, DONNA, I DON'T JUST TAKE ANYONE TO CORONSIS, Y'KNOW. YOU HAVE TO WAIT YEARS — CENTURIES, ACTUALLY — FOR TICKETS. WHEN I APPLIED I HAD A LONG FLOPPY SCARF AND A BIG, TOOTHY GRIN. LEEA WAS EVER SO DISAPPOINTED.

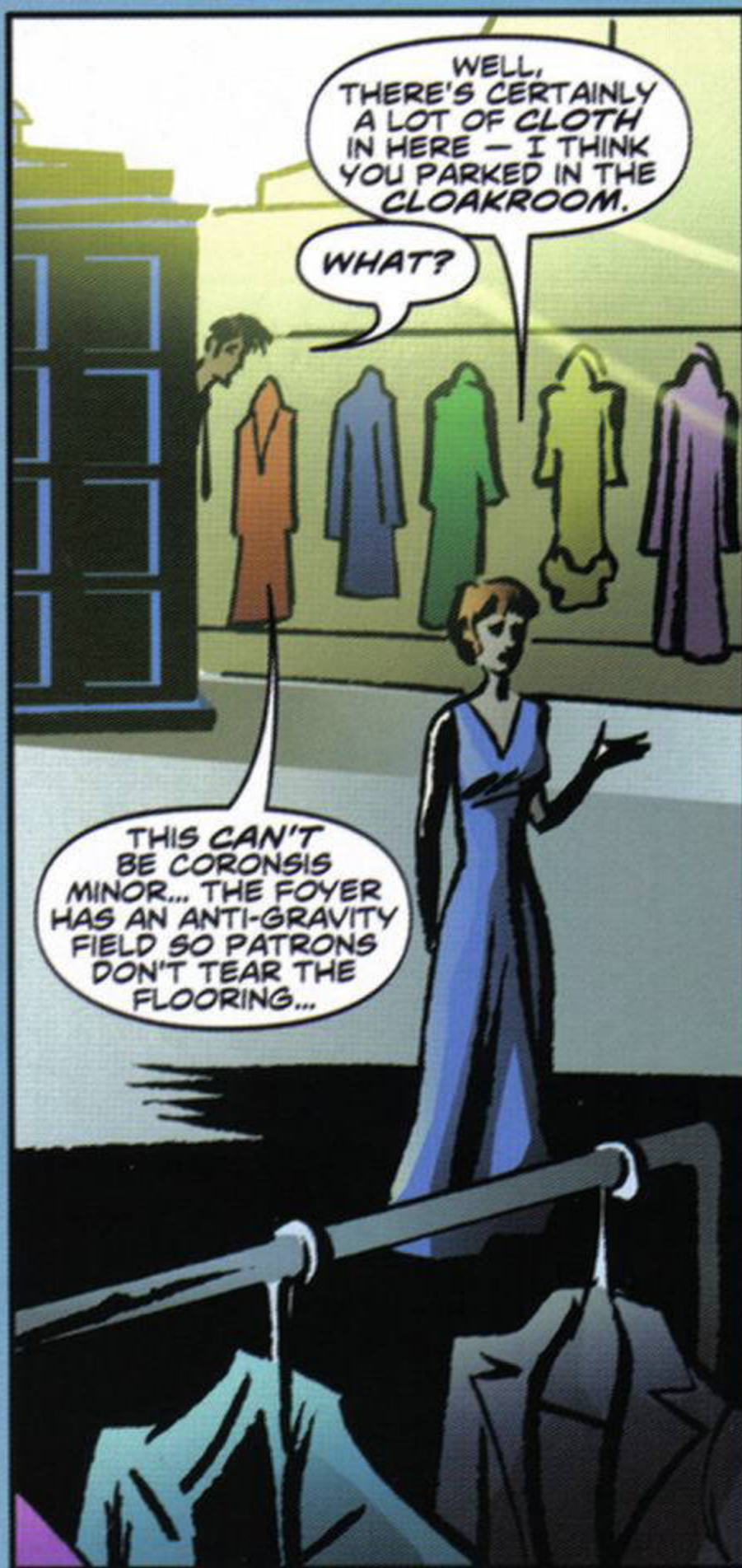
THE RECEPTION AREA OF THE CONCERT HALL IS A WORK OF ART IN ITSELF... IT WAS WOVEN FROM SILK BY THE ARCHITECTS OF CHOJA...



WELL, THERE'S CERTAINLY A LOT OF CLOTH IN HERE — I THINK YOU PARKED IN THE CLOAKROOM.

WHAT?

THIS CAN'T BE CORONSIS MINOR... THE FOYER HAS AN ANTI-GRAVITY FIELD SO PATRONS DON'T TEAR THE FLOORING...



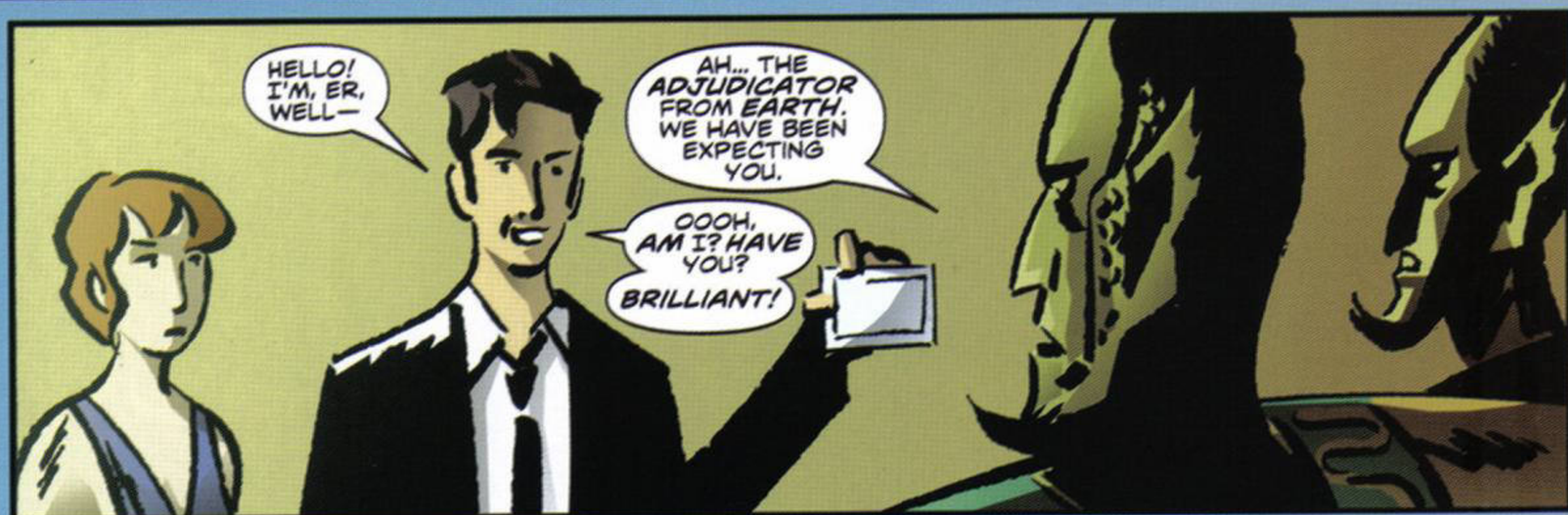
...AND THE CORONSIANS ONLY PERMIT HUMANIDS TO ATTEND THE OPERA, OTHERWISE IT WOULD COST THEM A FORTUNE IN CUSTOMIZED OPERA GLASSES.





THE HOUSE
OF ADJIT ASSAN
WELCOMES
THE FEDERATION
MONITORS FROM
MARS.

SSS... LET'SSS
HOPE THAT IT WON'T
BE NECESSSSSARY TO
OUTSSSTAY OUR
WELCOME...



HELLO!
I'M, ER,
WELL—

AH... THE
ADJUDICATOR
FROM EARTH.
WE HAVE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU.

OOOH,
AM I? HAVE
YOU?
BRILLIANT!



THE
PSYCHIC PAPER
SAYS I'M AN
ADJUDICATOR.
THAT'S
BRILLIANT.

EVERYTHING'S
BRILLIANT WITH
YOU, ISN'T
IT?



AND THE
GOOD LADY OF
NOBLE BIRTH, MADAM
CHISWICK, IT IS AN
HONOR TO HAVE
YOU HERE.

OH — UM,
ENCHANTED,
I'M SURE.

LADY
CHISWICK!
BRILLIA— NO,
MARVELLOUS,
THAT IS, JUST
MARVELLOUS!



THIS ISN'T
THE OPERA HOUSE,
IS IT, DOCTOR?

UM, NO, NO, IT
ISN'T... I RATHER THINK
WE'RE ON **DRACONIA**.
SEVERAL MILLION LIGHT
YEARS AWAY FROM
CORONIS...

I MUST HAVE
HIT THE HELMIC
REGULATOR A BIT TOO
HARD WITH THE,
UH, HAMMER.



AND,
WHAT — WHAT
ARE THOSE BIG,
GREEN, SLIMY
GREEN
THINGS...?

AH, WELL,
REMEMBER WHEN
YOU THOUGHT I WAS
A **MARTIAN**?

WELL, THEY
ARE **MARTIANS**!
OR **ICE WARRIORS**,
IF YOU PREFER.



WOT — THEY
SHOOT ICE OUT OF
THEIR EYES OR
SOMETHING?

AH, NO, NO...
BUT WE MIGHT
BE NEEDING
EARPLUGS...

NOW, I
WONDER WHAT'S
GOING ON HERE
THAT THEY NEED AN
ADJUDICATOR?



MAYBE THEY'RE
HAVING A TALENT
CONTEST... DANCING
IN THE STARS!
HAH!

**ALPHA
CENTAURI!**
AS I LIVE AND
BREATHE!

OUT OF MY
WAY, SIR, I'M SORRY,
I'M NOT STAYING... ALL
THESE MALE HORMONES
ARE UPSETTING MY
METABOLISM!



GOOD LUCK
SORTING THIS
ONE OUT...

ALPHA!
DON'T
FORGET...

...YOUR
COAT...





DOCTOR...?
DOCTOR?!

MY LADY,
PLEASSSE SSSTAY
BEHIND USSS... WE HAVE
YOU SSSSAFE.

DEATH TO
THE ENEMIES
OF FUSEK
KLJUCO!



THIS IS AN
OUTRAGE! CLEARLY
THIS IS AN ACT OF THE
HOUSE OF JANDI HUSAN!
AN ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT
THE PEACE PROCESS WE
HAVE ENTERED INTO
IN GOOD FAITH.



NEVER
MIND THAT —
THEY TOOK THE
DOCTOR!



HOW
DARE YOU?!

WITHOUT
DOUBT, THIS IS THE
WORK OF THE HOUSE OF
ADJIT ASSAN WHOSE
SOLE INTENTION IS TO
DISCREDIT OUR LEGITIMATE
CONCERNS REGARDING
THE PRESERVATION OF
THE DRACONIAN
PATRIARCHY!



ENOUGH! A FEDERATION
ADJUDICATOR HASSS
BEEN KIDNAPPED!

IF HE ISSS NOT
RETURNED TO PRESIDE
OVER PEACE TALKS
BETWEEN YOUR TWO
HOUSESSS...

...IT ISSS WITHIN
MY POWERSSS TO
ENFORCE MARTIAL
LAW!

YES,
THANK YOU. NOW
WE'RE TALKING.



LOOK, REALLY, THIS IS JUST A TERRIBLE MISTAKE... I'M SURE WE CAN CLEAR THIS UP REALLY QUICKLY IF YOU JUST...

SILENCE! THE ONLY MISTAKE THAT HAS BEEN MADE IS YOUR COMING TO DRACONIA.



AH, THAT'S SO MUCH BETTER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA... I THINK THE LAST PERSON WHO WORE THAT HAD BEEN EATING GARLIC.

SO, WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?



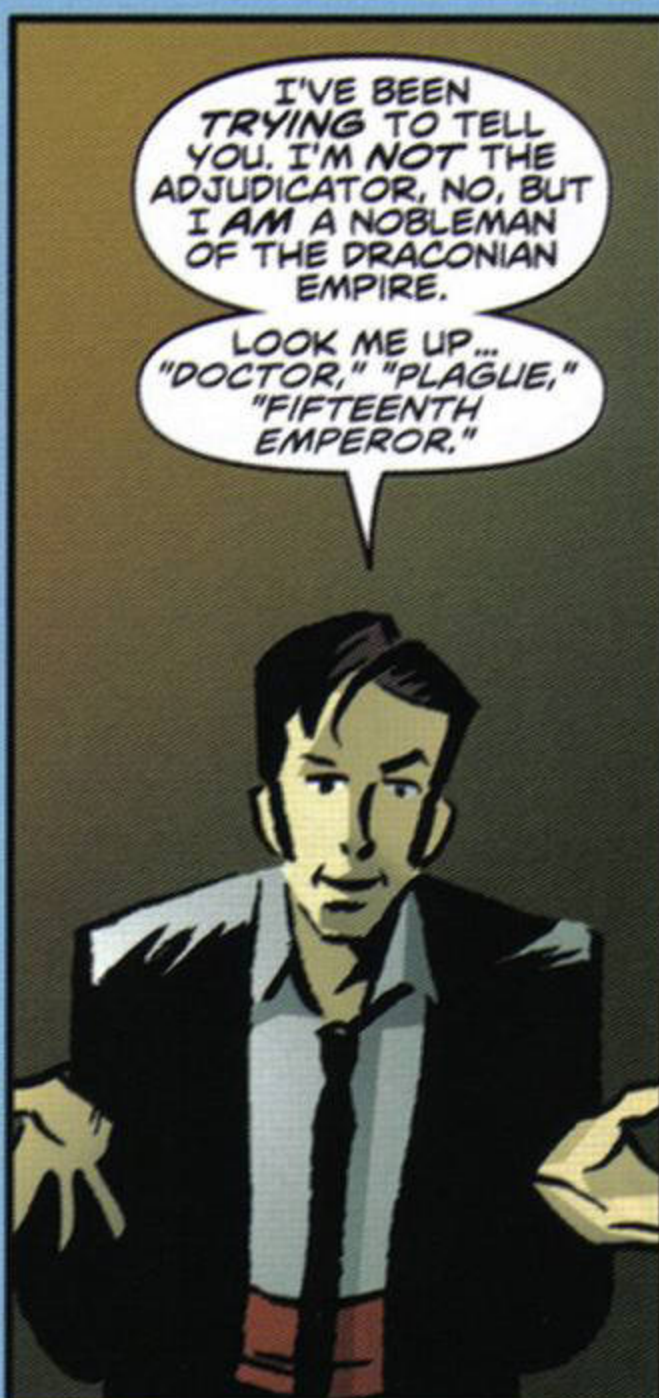
I AM FUSEK KLJUCO. YOU ARE MY PRISONER.

AND YOU CANNOT BE THE ADJUDICATOR FROM EARTH... MY BROTHERS DESTROYED THE ADJUDICATORS' SHIP HOURS AGO.



I AM THE DOCTOR... AND MY LIFE IS AT YOUR COMMAND.

WHAT MOCKERY IS THIS?!



I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU. I'M NOT THE ADJUDICATOR, NO, BUT I AM A NOBLEMAN OF THE DRACONIAN EMPIRE.

LOOK ME UP... "DOCTOR," "PLAGUE," "FIFTEENTH EMPEROR."



RIDICULOUS. NEVERTHELESS, IF KWAN BELIEVES YOU TO BE FROM EARTH, YOU MAY STILL BE OF VALUE TO OUR CAUSE.

THROW HIM IN THE CELLS WHERE HE CAN AWAIT HIS EXECUTION.



OH...

WHAT?



SO WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

WHY ARE THE DRACONIAN MALES AT EACH OTHERS' THROATS?

AND WHAT DO THE INSURGENTS WANT WITH THE DOCTOR?

DRACONIAN SSSOCIETY IS DOMINATED BY THE MALES OF THE SSSPECIES.

THE ASSCENDANCE OF EMPRESS KWAN IS REGARDED BY SSSOME AS AN UNACCEPTABLE ABERRATION.

THE HOUSSE OF JANDI HUSSAN ISSSS... RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE RULE OF A WOMAN.

NOT LONG AGO IT WAS FORBIDDEN FOR FEMALES TO SSSPEAK IN THE PRESSENCE OF THE MALESSS.



GOOD GRIEF! ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT WOMEN WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SEEN BUT NOT HEARD?!

AND WHAT ARE THEY WEARING?!

BURQAS?! YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!



THE CEREMONIAL DRESS YOU REFER TO IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE PRYING EYES OF THE DRACONIAN MALES.

IN OUR SOCIETY, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO DIRTY THE FEMALE IN ORDER TO CLEAN THE MALE.



WHAT? YOU COVER 'EM UP SO THE BOYS DON'T GET DISTURBED BY THEIR CURVES?

NOW THAT IS WHAT I CALL COLD-BLOODED!



LADY CHISSWICK, WE MUSSST NOT FORGET THE IMPORTANCE OF HONOURING THE TRADITIONSSS OF OTHER CULTURES.

THE WOMEN OF MARSSS ARE ALSSSO CONSSIDERED SSSACRED... FAMILY IS SSSACRED.

NEVERTHELESSS, IT HASSS BEEN KNOWN FOR THE MOTHER TO EAT HER YOUNG.



HELLO!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?



MY NAME'S
AGITA... BUT I HAVE
TO BE QUIET.

IF I'M NOT
NOT QUIET, VERY
BAD THINGS WILL
HAPPEN.



REALLY?
WHY'S THAT?

BECAUSE
I'M A GIRL.



AH. AND
WHAT'S THAT
YOU'VE GOT
THERE,
AGITA?



THIS IS THE
TALKING STICK. MY
TEACHER AT SCHOOL
GAVE IT TO ME.

IF YOU'RE
HOLDING THE STICK
DURING COUNCIL,
YOU CAN TALK ABOUT
ANYTHING YOU LIKE
WITHOUT BEING
INTERRUPTED.



BUT MAMA
DIDN'T HAVE A
STICK WHEN SHE
TALKED BACK TO
MY FATHER.

MAMA
TOLD PAPA
THAT EMPRESS
KWAN WAS GOOD
FOR DRACONIA.

AND A
VERY BAD THING
HAPPENED.





LADY CHISWICK FROM EARTH, COMMANDER IXZYTIR, FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE FROM MARS, WELCOME TO DRACONIA.

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR ROYAL APOLOGIES FOR THE DISTRESSING INCIDENT THAT HERALDED YOUR ARRIVAL.

I WANT YOU TO BE ASSURED THAT, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE IMPERIAL GUARD ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO DISCOVER THE ADJUDICATOR'S WHEREABOUTS AND RETURN HI—



THIS IS A COMPLETE CHARADE! THIS "KIDNAPPING" OF THE ADJUDICATOR HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN STAGED BY THE HOUSE OF ADJIT ASSAN TO DISCREDIT THE HONOURABLE PROTEST OF THE HOUSE OF JANDI HUSAN!

YOUR EXCELLENCY... THIS IS ABSURD! WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE ADJUDICATOR!

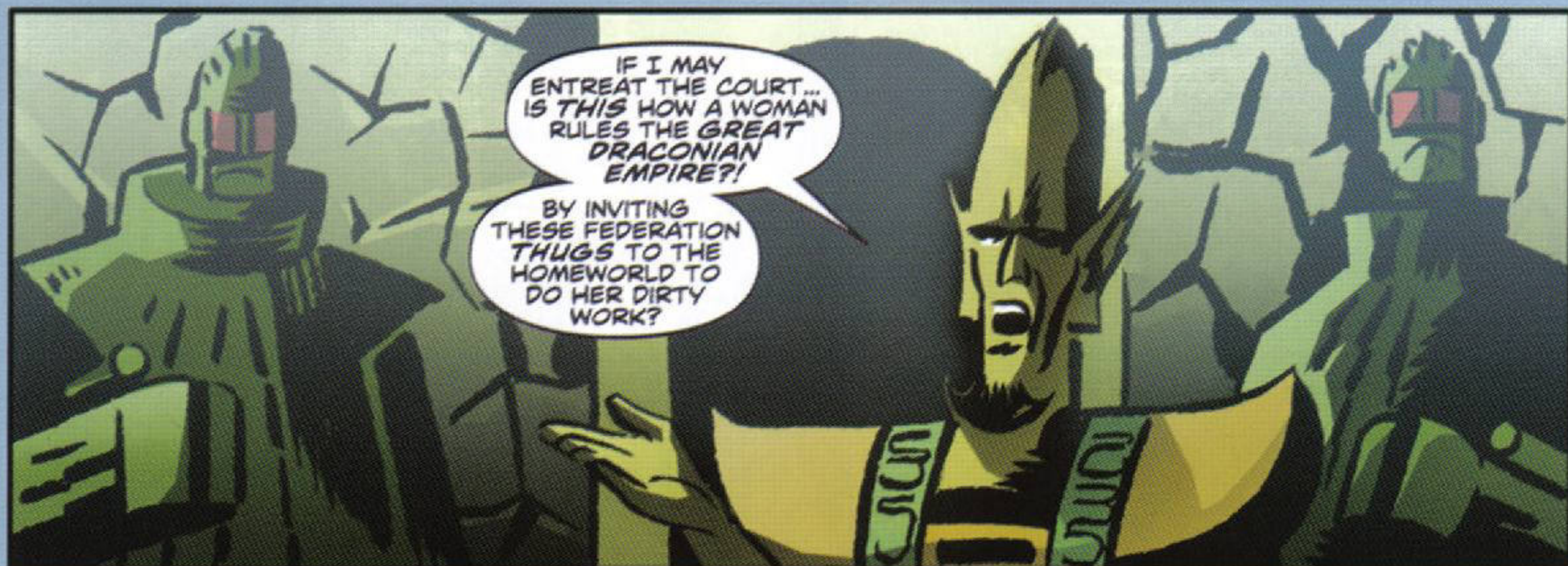


YOUR EXCELLENCY, IF YOU CANNOT KEEP YOUR COURT IN ORDER... THE FEDERATION HASSSS EMPOWERED ME TO EMBARK ON A COURSSSE OF MILITARY ACTION.

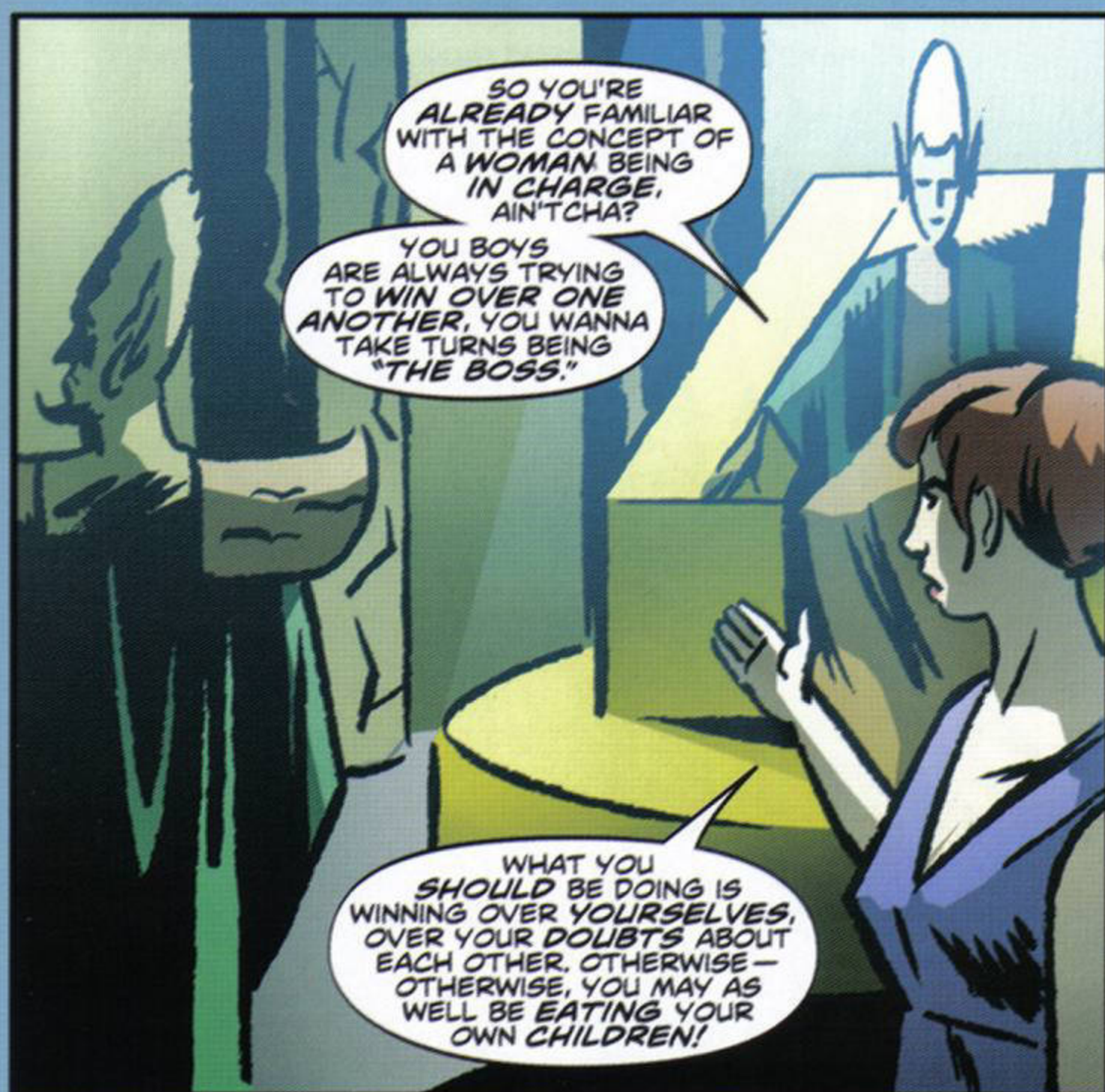
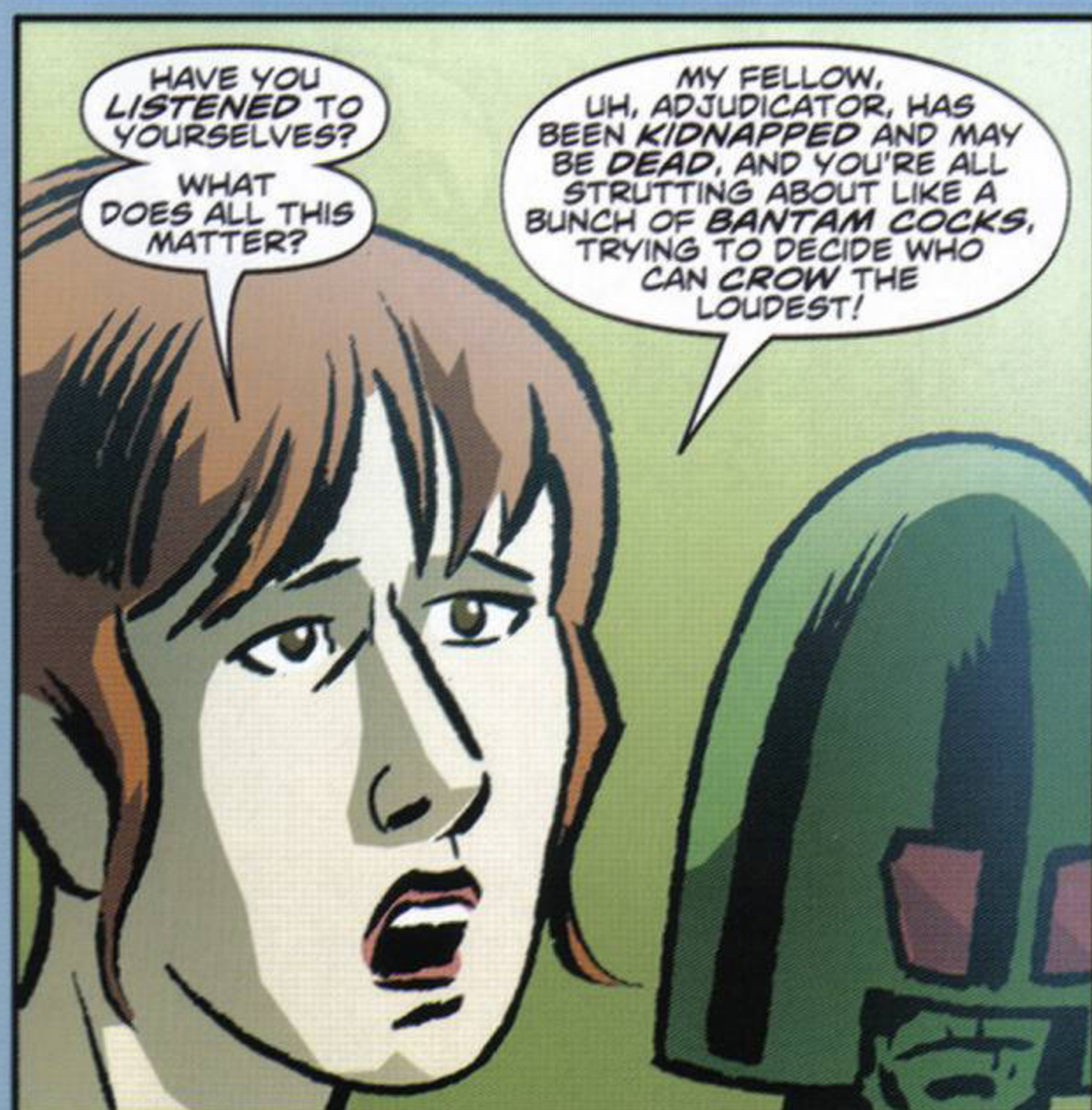


THANK YOU, COMMANDER, BUT I'M SURE THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

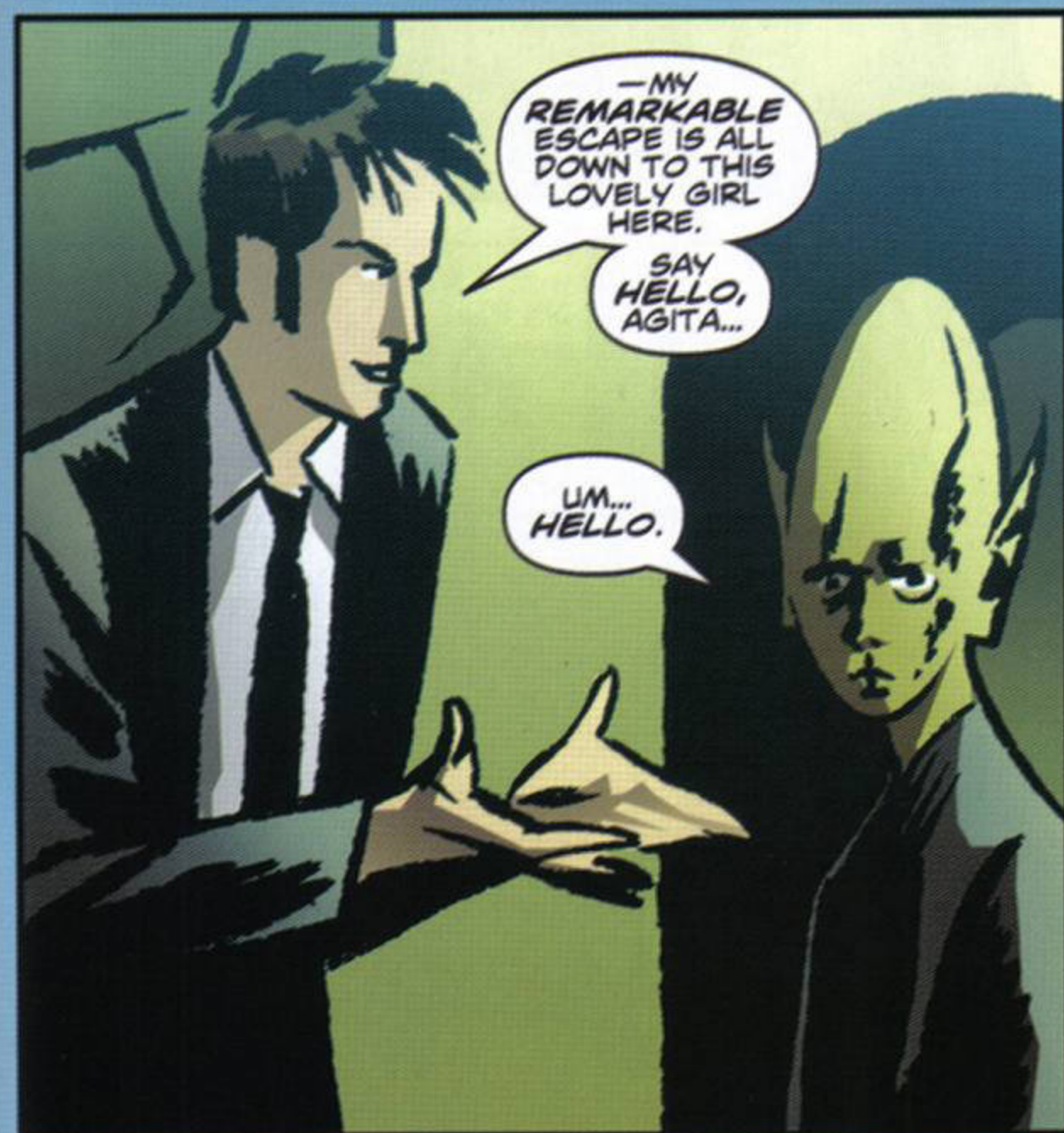
AS SOON AS THE ADJUDICATOR IS FOUND—











FUSEK KLJUCO
LEARNED LONG AGO
THAT IF AN ASSASSIN CAN
LOCATE HIS TARGET...

...AND HAS THE FOCUS AND
DETERMINATION TO STRIKE
AT HIS TARGET...

...THERE IS LITTLE THAT
CAN STOP HIM.

FUSEK KLJUCO LEARNED
THIS THE HARD WAY WHEN
HE WAS THE SUPREME
COMMANDER OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE DRACONIAN
EMPIRE.

AN ASSASSIN — A FEMALE! —
MADE HER WAY THROUGH
HIS INNER GUARD AND
ATTACKED HIM FEROCIOUSLY
WITH A DAGGER.

ONLY FUSEK'S LIGHTNING-FAST
RESPONSES SAVED HIM THEN.

THE EMPRESS WILL
NOT BE SO LUCKY.

WHAT DOES A WOMAN KNOW
OF THE ART OF WAR?

HOW DARE SHE HAVE HIM
DISMISSED FROM HIS POST?

COME UP
HERE, LOVE. C'MON,
I THINK IT'S TIME YOU
MET EMPRESS KWAN...
YOU'VE GOT THE
TALKING STICK,
RIGHT?



PAPA—?

